

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-13 Cancel

14. (New) A crossmember for a vehicle and adapted for mounting a heating and/or air-conditioning (HVAC) unit that has at least one air outlet, comprising:

a basic body which is adapted to be transversely mounted between respective sides of a vehicle and which comprises a metal frame member that has at least a partially closed profile cross-section defining a hollow space axially extending along the frame member, said basic body comprising at least two generally straight subsections which are connected via a third subsection of said frame member, wherein said third subsection comprises a generally C-shaped portion of said frame member that forms a widened area for at least partially encircling the HVAC unit; and

at least one air duct extending within said hollow space in at least one of said first and second subsections, the at least one air duct being positioned for connection to the air outlet of the HVAC unit.

15. (New) The crossmember as claimed in claim 14, wherein the basic body is configured to accept an HVAC unit terminating with the air outlet in approximately the plane of said generally C-shaped portion of the frame member and wherein the at least one air duct is positioned to directly connect with the air outlet of the HVAC unit.

16. (New) The crossmember as claimed in claim 15, wherein the air outlet opens into or runs through the at least one air duct.

17. (New) The crossmember as claimed in claim 15, further comprising an adapter element for connecting the air outlet with the at least one air duct.

18. (New) The crossmember as claimed in claim 14, wherein the basic body is configured to receive an HVAC unit terminating with the air outlet on one side the plane of said generally C-shaped portion of the frame member, wherein the at least one air duct is diverted in a portion at said generally C-shaped portion of the frame member, and wherein the at least one air duct in said diverted portion is positioned to connect with the air outlet of the HVAC unit.

19. (New) The crossmember as claimed in claim 14, wherein the metal frame member of the basic body is at least partially formed from two metal ducts arranged parallel to each other.

20. (New) The crossmember as claimed in claim 19, wherein the metal ducts define said hollow space between them and the at least one air duct is at least partially guided between the metal ducts arranged parallel to each other.

21. (New) The crossmember as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one air duct is defined by the basic body.

22. (New) The crossmember as claimed in claim 14, wherein the at least one air duct comprises a separate duct member.

23. (New) The crossmember as claimed in claim 22, wherein said separate duct member comprises a duct formed of a synthetic resin material.

24. (New) The crossmember as claimed in claim 14, further comprising in at least a portion said hollow space a synthetic resin reinforcing member.

25. (New) The crossmember as claimed in claim 24, said synthetic resin reinforcing member comprises a reticulated structure.

26. (New) The crossmember as claimed in claim 17, wherein the adapter element

is formed from synthetic resin.

27. (New) The crossmember as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a fourth subsection of the basic body located in the widened area and also connecting said first and second subsections, whereby said third and fourth subsections are adapted to generally surround the HVAC unit.

28. (New) A vehicle comprising a crossmember and an HVAC unit supported on the crossmember, wherein the crossmember comprises a structure as defined according to claim 14.